



# "Dawn, and underneath a fig tree, one animal has already had its first brush with death."



Chaz

 [cvillette](#)

<https://cvillette.livejournal.com/>

2008-01-06 18:14:00

MOOD: 🤢 crappy

MUSIC: Giant! Carnivorous! Ants!

And I think the animal in question may be me. Apparently, the Chaz has entered its hibernation phase, which involves a great deal of mucus and cocooning itself in layers of kleenex.

But the Discovery Channel has *Walking With Prehistoric Beasts* on, which means I can huddle in my blankets and drink coconut chili chicken soup and watch CGI *ambulocetus* and *gastornis* try to eat each other!

Ooo. Gastornis!

Giant! Carnivorous! Ants!

Best TV show ever!



[locked] Dream Journal

All right, unconscious mind. We're coming to an accommodation. If the dreams are you cleaning

Elvis doesn't live here anymore.

Hey there. Sorry about the drama. It was... it was an emotional decision, and I didn't

Poppets.

Puppets. Poppet

puppets. Scary.

69 comments



 [Ometotchtli](#)



[January 7 2008, 00:04:47 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

If they'd had Thai food instead, maybe they woulda all just got along.

On the other hand, I'd make soup out of either of 'em. Yum.



[cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:08:51 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

"Six feet tall. And a brain no bigger than an orange. These are distant relatives of Homeland Security."



[trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:19:47 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

*Entelodon*? Beating up that poor *hyaenadon* and taking its lunch? Okay, really \*is\* Homeland Suckurity.



[Ometotchtli](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:24:18 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Its more primitive cousin grew up to be TSA.



[trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:07:58 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I should have known you'd be watching it, too.

Mucus production helps move the virus out of the body.

Don't you love it when I say things like that?



[cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:10:09 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

C'mere. I'll drip on you.



[cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:16:01 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Okay, the animated shoulder articulation in that *indricother* is \*awesome\*



[trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:22:49 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Discovery Channel is CRACK!!!!




[cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:25:23 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Poor beardedog. Oh noes!




 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:46:20 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

Primitive savagery! (Pass me that drumstick, T., hon...)



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:05:38 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

I want less monkeys and more megafauna, dammit. (You got monkeys in my megafauna! You got megafauna in my monkeys!)

Oh, look, Smilodon! And he has a brokedy toof.



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:08:18 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

Awww, poor Smilodon. I always liked Smilodon.




 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:21:03 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

Oh, god. The smilodons are UNSUBS!



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:24:40 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

BWAHA! AVENGING MEGATHERIUM!



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:40:40 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

Hey, does that make us megatheriums?

Megatheria?

Those guys?



 [cvillette](#)


[January 7 2008, 01:52:14 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

I hope not.

They're extinct.

But I mean, giant carnivorous ground sloth. *Dude*.



 [trolldatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:09:06 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Megatherium!

Did you really just say "brokedy toof"? How much Theraflu are you drinking, there?




 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:14:36 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

You endorsed the hot liquids...



 [trolldatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:17:23 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I'm not sick. So I'm sitting on the couch with T. eating spicy chicken and drinking a lot of wine.

It's all medicinal, really.



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:19:51 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Drink some for me. Gah.

*Deleted comment*




 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:14:07 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I like the smilodons better than the monkeys.

I probably should not admit that around Dad.



 [trolldatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 02:13:39 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

SCORPION THE SIZE OF A CROCODILE! NEVER GOING NEAR THE WATER AGAIN!



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 02:18:12 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

The best part are the DATELINE: PRECAMBRIAN subtitles.

Place: New South Wales

Oxygen Content: 30% below modern

Hazard: Giant Scorpions

...it is to love. It's like Stan Lee Presents: Prehistoric Arthropods.

I'm not sure of the politics of presenting the prey as female and the predator as male, though--but I think it's saved by the giant scorpion that eats the not-so-giant scorpion being a girl, too.

Um. Sorry, I was just thinking about serial killer porn. :-P Because it kind of read like that.



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[January 7 2008, 12:26:46 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Chaz? You're thinking about the sexual politics of gendering giant arthropods?

While feverish?




 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 12:27:05 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

too many sensitivity classes?



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 13:34:41 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Ugh. Serial killer porn.

I'm not a fan of censorship, but Thomas Harris needs to be stopped. And can we talk about the problematic psychology behind *Dexter*?

So I watched an ep, and I was like, hai hello hai, when do we talk about the bedwetting and the impotence? Not so romantic when you put it that way, is it?

Gragh.



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 15:57:35 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Or that he strangled kittens in Reno, just to watch them die.



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 16:13:25 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

homicidal traid FTW! :-P



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 16:13:47 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

triad.

I suck.



 [cvillette](#)


[January 7 2008, 16:29:49 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Fever entertaining. I read it as "homicidal trayf" the first time.

Now thinking of wild boar hunts.



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 16:37:55 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Kind of what we do.


[monkeys are scary](#)

 [dancing\\_crow](#)

[January 19 2008, 01:22:45 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Shaenon Garrity has a new online comic - Skinhorse - and the lion who talks agrees with you. <http://tinyurl.com/36qjuv> should get you there...

 [leahbobet](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:55:19 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Even when you're miserable sick you still eat better than me. :p




 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:56:39 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Certain Harpy brought takeout.

There is tom kha gai. Chicken soup is good for the sick.

 [leahbobet](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:57:18 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

The Harpy is a Good Harpy. :)



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 00:57:56 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Best harpy I know.



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:13:27 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)


Aww, thank you.

Wait--how many harpies *do* you know?

Very spicy soup consumed hot leads to aforementioned mucus production and unclogging of respiratory system. Plus is additional non-diuretic liquid consumption.

(Also is very comforting.)



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:22:32 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

When the one you have is perfect, you don't need two.

There was just a terror bird. Did you see the terror bird? That's like a harpy.



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:38:26 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

\*blushes\* \*hides\*

Also true of ideal platypi, as I know from personal experience.

TERROR BIRD! Okay, who the hell named that? When you think about the rest of the ginormous devouring things on this show, that's kind of goofy.



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:51:11 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Aww. That sounds like a pub. The Ideal Platypus.

Well, it looks as if the first example of genus *Phorusrhacos* was first collected by Florentino Ameghino in 1887, so I think the nickname credit probably belongs to him. (The genus name means "rag-bearer." Isn't that cool?) The family is called *Phorusrhacidae*.

Another species in a second genus is called *Titanis walleri*. There were an awful lot of these things, actually....

...that was a rhetorical question, wasn't it? 0.0



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 05:15:52 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I think if you have an answer to a rhetorical question it ceases to be rhetorical. Well, it ought to.

And I scorned him without cause--see response below re Terror! Bird!



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 01:53:53 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Ooo.

*"An ostrich, the largest living bird, can swallow an apple. But a phorusrhacid could swallow a medium-sized dog in one gulp," Alvarenga said.*

*The smallest known terror bird, *Psilopterus lemoinei*, was the size of a harpy eagle and weighed about 18 pounds (8 kilograms). The largest terror bird was the gargantuan *Brontornis burmeisteri*, which stood nearly 10 feet (3 meters) tall and weighed a whopping 1,100 pounds (500 kilograms).*

Harpy eagle!

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/08/0801\\_050801\\_terrorbirds.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/08/0801_050801_terrorbirds.html)



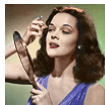
 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 05:12:15 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

OMG, they actually deserved to be called that. WOOO!

He's a terror bird specialist. How do you get that job? I want that job.

You better not be awake and reading this right now.



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[January 7 2008, 05:19:23 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Both of you, go to sleep.

Harpy gonna be busting butt tomorrow in echo-y office.



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 12:21:12 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

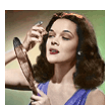
I was a hibernating platypus. Totally passed out on the sofa.

You \*have\* that job. Only they're not birds.

I think the terror bird got a bad rap on the show because it only showed up long enough to be run off its kill by the wounded *smilodon*. (And we all know there's nothing more dangerous than a wounded *smilodon*.)

Still feverish. Making tea. Then I'm moving from the couch to the bed.

Don't call us. We'll call you.



 [Ometotchtli](#)


[January 7 2008, 13:31:52 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)



Cowboy came in.

I ran him off.



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 16:06:26 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

Huh. Big damn (glazed-eyed) idjit. Everybody behaves as if the flu is just a cold that hurts worse. Hel-lo, this is a virus that ruptures cell walls! In the 1918 pandemic, people's mucus membranes hemorrhaged!

Ooops--sorry, Platypus.



**you'll be stone dead in a minute.**

 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 16:11:31 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

\*gasp\*

\*wheeze\*

\*congeal\*



**Re: you'll be stone dead in a minute.**

 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 16:26:44 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

Noooooooo!

(It'll be interesting when you feel better, honest. I think.)

Do you have sufficient palatable calories on hand?



**Re: you'll be stone dead in a minute.**

 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 16:36:02 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

Oh, interesting now. Kinda.

Not hungry. I guess there's stuff in the freezer if I need it. Mrs. Ng went and got me seven things of O.J. and I still have soup.

God forbid Wabbit or I ever gets a really bad puking bug. Or wow, can you imagine a jammer with morning sickness?

Bah, and we were in VT and I did not get the laundry or the cooking done. Want clean sheets.

Want not to feel like the aftermath of a blanket party.

Yeah, you told me so.



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:05:43 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Oh, yay! Found grocery that will deliver. (Not part of the usual service, but they were sympathetic. Whole Paycheck sounded as if they thought I'd been dropped on my head.) Are you fit to open the door when they buzz? If so, I'll call 'em back.

Because they have carrot juice, which could be a good thing, in case your throat gets too raw for the acid in the O.J.



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:07:54 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

\*is pathetically grateful\*

I don't have a firstborn to offer.

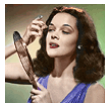


 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:23:38 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Silly Platypus--where would I put it? He/she would want his/her own room, and I'd have to share my ice cream. \*g\*



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:27:17 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Mom claims she will be in to work tomorrow, BTW. I am not holding my breath.



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:32:00 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Half day. Because if she said so, she will, but she won't be able to hold out.

Ten bucks sez. Any takers?



 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:33:36 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

No bet. I'm delirious, not stupid.




 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:53:08 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Sigh. I should stop explaining my betting strategy in advance.



 [cvillette](#)


[January 7 2008, 17:54:41 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Vegas, baby.

How do you think I paid for my textbooks?



 [trollcatz](#)

[January 7 2008, 18:42:07 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

i r pwnd \*g\*



**[Re: you'll be stone dead in a minute.](#)**

 [Ometotchtli](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:12:35 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Another argument against reproducing. I shall add it to my long personal list.

Chemotherapy would also be an interesting challenge. Let's not have cancer, either.



**[Re: you&#39;ll be stone dead in a minute.](#)**

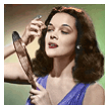
 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:13:46 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Let's not.

Or Krone's disease, or whatever.



**[Re: you&#39;ll be stone dead in a minute.](#)**

 [Ometotchtli](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:15:47 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Not hungry? What is that like, anyway?



**[Re: you&#39;ll be stone dead in a minute.](#)**

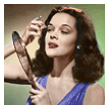
 [cvillette](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:28:25 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I think I like hungry better.

Why did my subject line start cussing?



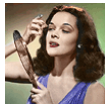
**[Re: you'll be stone dead in a minute.](#)**

 [Ometotchtli](#)

[January 7 2008, 17:35:30 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Because you answered the comment above from gmail, I bet, and it read the HTML format code for the comma as those characters, rather than a comma.



**Re: you'll be stone dead in a minute.**

**Ometotchtli**

**January 7 2008, 17:50:47 UTC**    **COLLAPSE**

Where for comma, read apostrophe.

Dammit, Jim. I'm a hacker, not an English major.



**onceuponanever**

**January 9 2008, 15:34:56 UTC**    **COLLAPSE**

Giant carnivorous ants? I so missed out on an awesome show.

I'm Alex. Nice to meet you and all that jazz. But it's very sincere jazz, so don't be fooled by its commonness.



**cvillette**

**January 9 2008, 15:57:18 UTC**    **COLLAPSE**

Discovery Channel is crack.

Even sincere jazz is a little ironical.

Nice to meet you. Who are you? What do you do?



**onceuponanever**

**January 9 2008, 16:04:43 UTC**    **COLLAPSE**

Well, as I said, I'm Alex. I'm a student at a Quaker college, it makes things interesting, since we call our professors by their given names. I study geology, but I think I'd like to go into meteorology once I finish my undergrad stuff. Hmmm...what else? I found you through the awesome **coffeecm**.



**cvillette**

**January 9 2008, 16:05:56 UTC**    **COLLAPSE**

Oh, cool. Science geeks, always welcome.

[locked] Dream Journal

All right, unconscious mind. We're coming to an accommodation. If the dreams are you cleaning

Elvis doesn't live here anymore.

Hey there. Sorry about the drama. It was... it was an emotional decision, and I didn't

Poppets.

Puppets. Poppet  
puppets. Scary.